

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Atty. Docket

FRANCOIS MARTIN

PHF 97,628A

Serial No.: 09/085,668

Group Art Unit: 2613

Filed: MAY 27, 1998

Examiner: S. AN

Title: METHOD OF SWITCHING VIDEO SEQUENCES AND
CORRESPONDING SWITCHING DEVICE AND DECODING SYSTEM

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to the issuance of a first Office Action, please
amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claim 6 without prejudice.

Please amend the claim as follows:

2. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the
following steps are implemented :

(a) the old sequence to be replaced by the new
one is cut on a P picture, at a first switching point, and
a sequence of k minimal P pictures is then inserted ;

(b) after this sequence of additional pictures,
at a second switching point said new sequence is inserted.

3. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said sequence is a sequence of k uniform colour pictures.

5. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 2, wherein the following additional steps are implemented after the steps (a) and (b):

(c) said second sequence is cut at a third switching point, in order to be replaced by the first one ;

(d) at said third switching point, additional pictures are similarly inserted until the first old picture to occur is an I picture, the first old sequence being then re-inserted.

7. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein said old and new video sequences are bitstreams encoded according to the MPEG-2 standard.

8. (AMENDED) A decoding system for decoding n parallel video bitstreams corresponding to video sequences of pictures said intra if they have been coded without any reference to any other picture or said predicted or interpolated according to the fact that they are predicted by motion-compensated prediction from an earlier intra or predicted picture or bidirectionally interpolated from an earlier and a later picture, said system comprising a switching device that includes in cascade selecting means,

for the selection of the bitstream which has to be decoded, and decoding means for decoding said selected bitstream, wherein said selecting means comprise, in view of the implementation of a method according to claim 1, control means for a selective switchover of the bitstream which has to be decoded.

9. (AMENDED) In a decoding system for decoding n parallel video bitstreams corresponding to video sequences of pictures said intra if they have been coded without any reference to any other picture or said predicted or interpolated according to the fact that they are predicted by motion-compensated prediction from an earlier intra or predicted picture or bidirectionally interpolated from an earlier and a later picture, or in association with such a system, a switching device comprising selecting means provided for a selective switchover of the bitstream which has to be decoded according to a switching method such as described in claim 1.

R E M A R K S

The present application is a continuation of Serial No. 09/085,668. Claim 6 of the original filed application has been cancelled. Claims 5-9 were amended to delete the multiple dependencies. Other minor amendments were made in order to improve the form and grammar of the claims.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to credit any overpayment or charge any fee (except the issue fee) to Account No. 14-1270.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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A P P E N D I X

2. (AMENDED) A method according to claim 1, wherein the following steps are ~~successively~~ implemented :

(a) the old sequence to be replaced by the new one is cut on a P picture, at a first switching point, and a sequence of k minimal P pictures is then inserted ;

(b) after this sequence of additional pictures, at a second switching point said new sequence is inserted.

3. (AMENDED) A method according to claim ~~2~~ 1, wherein said sequence is a sequence of k uniform colour pictures.

5. (AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of claims 2 to 4~~ claim 2, wherein the following additional steps are implemented after the steps (a) and (b):

(c) said second sequence is cut at a third switching point, in order to be replaced by the first one ;

(d) at said third switching point, additional pictures are similarly inserted until the first old picture to occur is an I picture, the first old sequence being then re-inserted.

7. (AMENDED) A method according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, wherein said old and new video sequences are bitstreams encoded according to the ~~so-called~~ MPEG-2 standard.

8. (AMENDED) A decoding system for decoding n parallel video bitstreams corresponding to video sequences of pictures said intra if they have been coded without any reference to any other picture or said predicted or interpolated according to the fact that they are predicted by motion-compensated prediction from an earlier intra or predicted picture or bidirectionally interpolated from an earlier and a later picture, said system comprising a switching device that includes in cascade selecting means, for the selection of the bitstream which has to be decoded, and decoding means for decoding said selected bitstream, wherein said selecting means comprise, in view of the implementation of a method according to ~~anyone of claims 1 to 7~~ claim 1, control means for a selective switchover of the bitstream which has to be decoded.

9. (AMENDED) In a decoding system for decoding n parallel video bitstreams corresponding to video sequences of pictures said intra if they have been coded without any reference to any other picture or said predicted or interpolated according to the fact that they are predicted by motion-compensated prediction from an earlier intra or predicted picture or bidirectionally interpolated from an earlier and a later picture, or in association with such a system, a switching device comprising selecting means

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